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January 13, 2011

Ms. Leigh Ivey  
Communications Assistant  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Ivey:

This letter is to express my support for the nomination of China Alley in Hanford, California to the National Trust's list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places."

The city of Hanford was established in 1877 when the Southern Pacific railroad constructed a new extension line through the San Joaquin Valley. There were many Chinese who labored on the railroad and when the work was completed, many remained in the area to do farm work. They purchased land and began building houses and shops in an area that soon became China Alley. It became quite a sizable early Chinese community becoming a "city within a city," with herb shops, gambling dens, businesses, and a Taoist Temple for the early agricultural workers and railroad workers. The Taoist Temple was constructed in the 1880s and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

China Alley had a colorful and unique existence. China Alley in Hanford is a now-quiet testament to the once thriving community. Although the loss of businesses and restaurants on the Alley has taken its toll, its character and rich history remain.

The continued restoration of the historic China Alley pays homage to Hanford, California's history and is a tribute to the early Chinese settlers. Listing China Alley on the National Trust's list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places," would help to ensure that the history of Hanford's historic China Alley lives on, providing a cultural resource for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**JIM COSTA**  
Member of Congress